

## Signs of Under & Over Watering

- 💧 -Soil is dry.
- 💧 -Older leaves turn yellow or brown and may even drop off.
- 💧 -Leaves are wilted and/or curled.

### Over-watering

- 💧 -Soil is constantly damp.
- 💧 -Young leaves become light green or yellow.
- 💧 -Young shoots are wilted.
- 💧 -Leaves are green yet brittle.
- 💧 -Algae & mushroom are growing

### Tips for efficient watering

- 💧 -Control weeds. Do not lay plastic over the soil. Use mulch or porous landscaping fabric instead to allow water and air to circulate in the root zone.
- 💧 -Avoid sprinkling tree and shrub leaves with water. Salts in the water can damage the foliage.
- 💧 -If trees or shrubs are planted in turf, water them separately at the drip line.
- 💧 -If you water by hand, install a faucet timer and use a soaker hose or in-line driphose.
- 💧 -Once or twice a year water three times longer than normal to help leach salts out the root zone.
- 💧 -Move the 2 foot wide donut ring outward as the plants grow.
- 💧 -Prevent runoff by retaining water in a 'donut' basin around the plant's drip line or water at a slower rate.
- 💧 -Watering in the early morning will be most efficient because of less wind and heat.
- 💧 -Use rain and stormwater when possible to reduce tap water-it;s better for your plants!

Content Retrieved From: University of Arizona, College of Agriculture textbook

### Weather

Plants use 3 to 5 times as much water during the hot, dry, windy seasons as they do during the winter. Adjust your watering schedule with the season and when there are significant changes in the weather.

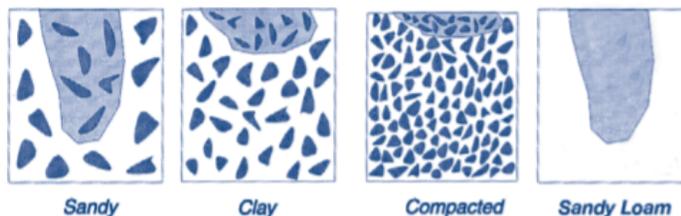
### Plant Maturity and Type

To prevent wilting, young plants should be watered more often than older plants. After they become established, in one or two years, allow a slight drought between waterings. The plants will adapt to the stress and become more drought tolerant.

### Soil Type

If your soil is shallow, compacted or sandy, irrigate more often but for less time. Clay soil can hold water more tightly and absorbs water slowly. Water clay soils slowly and less often. A sandy loam soil penetrates evenly.

Water penetration after 1 hour



### Mulch

Keeping water from evaporating is key to keeping water in the ground for plant use. A 3" to 4" layer of an organic (for example shredded bark) or inorganic (rock) mulch on top of a plant's root zone will significantly reduce the frequency of watering. Keep mulch away from base of plant to avoid rot.

## Contact Us

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# Watering Trees/Plants



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### Plants don't waste water—people do!

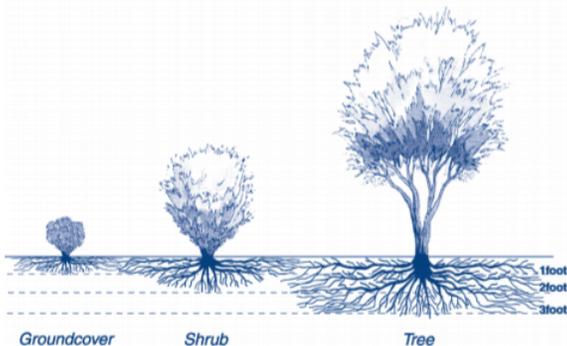
Most people over water plants. Over-watering can damage or even kill plants, leaving you with high water bills.

Learning to water efficiently and effectively is easy. This brochure provides some basic guidelines on how to properly water trees and shrubs.

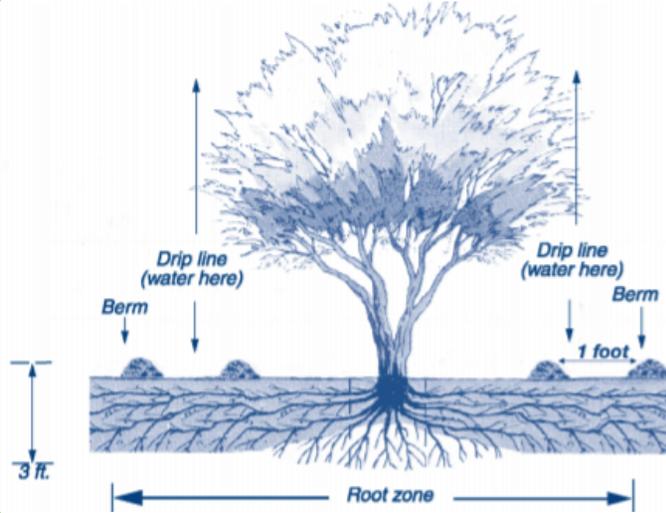
### Where should I water?

The soil surrounding the plant's roots, called the "root zone," serves as a storage tank from which the plant draws moisture and nutrients. Most trees and shrubs shed rain water to the "dripline" (the area below the edge of the plant's canopy), much like an umbrella. The most active water absorption area is at the drip line and beyond, not close to the trunk. This is where you should water. Most of the roots spread 1 1/2 to 4 times as wide as the plant's canopy.

### Suggested Watering Depth for Different Types of Plants



## How should I water?



**Hand-Water with Water Hose**—No over-watering or under-watering (MOST RECOMMENDED OPTION)

**Drip Systems**—Most drip systems do not have enough well placed and spaced emitters. Add emitters and move out to the drip line as the plants grow.

**Bubblers**—Be sure the basins are level and are a 1 foot wide "donut" just inside and outside the edge of the canopy. Do not water near the trunk.

**Soaker Hoses**—A perforated hose is a good device for watering, but can plug and emit water in a random pattern.

**In-Line Drip**—Poly tubing with drip emitters inside.

**Sprinklers**—Cover a large area but can be inefficient because of wind and evaporation. Not recommended for watering trees and shrubs.

### How much should I water?

Be sure to water the root zone to the indicated root depth every time you water. How will you know this? Push a "soil probe," a smooth rod (1/4 to 3/8" diameter), into the ground soon after you irrigate. The soil probe should easily slide through the wet soil and become difficult to push when reaching dry soil. Watering deeper than the root zone only means you are wasting water.

\*\*\*If your trees are on a slope you should test the upper and lower to be sure the upper trees are getting enough and lower aren't getting too much.

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## How often should I water?

**If your new trees are planted November- March**  
Don't worry about this; the trees are dormant and the rain will take care of this, plus watering throughout freezing weather can damage your tree.

**If your new trees are planted April-October**  
It is a good idea to "water in" newly planted trees. This means to saturate the ground in order to fill in micro-air pockets in the soil. Water, Water, Water! Your new plantings will need an inch of water per week for the first year. **IF YOU FAIL TO WATER YOUR PLANTS, THEY WILL DIE. A PLANT THAT HAS DIED DUE TO DROUGHT IS NOT COVERED UNDER OUR GUARANTEE IF PURCHASED.** So for the first time you water the trees, leave the water on a good long time to accomplish this. Water should pool up at the base of the plant when the soil has been adequately saturated. Water not only under the drip line of the plant, but also several feet out from this. Otherwise, dry soil will wick away moisture from roots.

If planting occurs in the Spring, water 3 times minimum per week, for the first 3 weeks, whether it rains or not, then after the first 3 weeks, water twice per week whether it rains or not until cool weather arrives (September) then reduce to once per week until November (dormant season). It is best to water early in the morning to prevent evaporation, or rot if watered too late in the day.

If you wait for brown branches to appear, it may be too late. We recommend that you also water well the second year after planting, particularly during hot days or if we planted larger trees for you.

## SEASONAL PLANT USE

